

REMARKS

The Office Action mailed March 23, 2006, in the nature of a requirement for restriction, has been carefully reviewed. This response is timely filed as April 23, 2006, was a Sunday. Favorable consideration is respectfully requested.

Restriction has been required among what the Examiner considers to be patentably distinct species of the invention, as follows:

Group I, drawn to establishing a connection between a first primary storage system and a second storage system, presently comprising claims 1-10, 16-25 and 31-40; and

Group II, drawn to a protocol that supports devices that store variable-size records in a data frame, presently comprising claims 11-15, 26-30 and 41-45.

Applicant hereby elects Group I, claims 1-10, 16-25 and 31-40.

If this restriction requirement is maintained, it will be clear on the record that the PTO considers the groups to be patentably distinct from one another *i.e.*, *prima facie* non-obvious from one another. This means that a reference

Appln. No. 09/985,788  
Response dated April 24, 2006  
Reply to Office Action of March 23, 2006

identical to the one group would not render the other group  
*prima facie* obvious.

Favorable consideration and examination of all  
pending claims on the merits are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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